Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of applying a sender-specific mail policy, the method comprising:

maintaining a list of computer system users and ~~associated~~ respective sender-specific mail policies associated with each of said computer system users, each of said sender-specific mail policies indicating at least one of how [[or]] and whether a ~~mail~~ user message, received from one of said computer system users, is to ~~should~~ be further transmitted across a network;

receiving a mail message intended for further transmission across ~~the~~ said network, ~~the~~ said mail message indicating a sender thereof;

determining whether said mail message contains a digital signature;

attempting to verify ~~the~~ said digital signature in said mail message;

~~if the~~ after said digital signature is verified, said mail message is determined to ~~does~~ contain a verified digital signature, ~~and if~~

after a user corresponding to ~~the~~ said verified digital signature ~~corresponds~~ is determined to correspond to ~~the~~ said sender indicated in ~~the~~ said mail message, applying to said mail message at least one of said ~~an associated~~ sender-specific mail ~~policy to said mail message~~ policies associated with said user; and

after said ~~if the~~ mail message ~~does not~~ is not determined to contain [[a]] any digital signature, or ~~does not~~ is not determined to contain [[a]] said verified digital signature corresponding to ~~the~~ said sender indicated in ~~the~~ said mail message, applying a default mail policy to said mail message, wherein:

said default mail policy indicates at least one of how and whether a sent message, received from a sender omitted from said list of computer system users, is to be further

transmitted across said network; and

said default mail policy is more restrictive than each of said sender-specific mail policies.

2. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of applying [[a]] at least one of said sender-specific mail policies ~~policy to said mail message~~ comprises determining whether ~~the~~ said mail message complies with said ~~policy~~ at least one of said sender-specific mail policies;

after determining said ~~if the~~ mail message does comply with said ~~policy~~ at least one of said sender-specific mail policies, allowing transmission of said mail message; and

after not determining said ~~if the~~ mail message ~~does not comply~~ complies with said ~~policy~~ at least one of said sender-specific mail policies, applying appropriate measures to said mail message.

3. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of applying [[a]] said default mail policy to said mail message comprises determining whether ~~the~~ said mail message complies with said default mail policy;

after determining said ~~if the~~ mail message does comply with said default mail policy, allowing transmission of said mail message; and

after not determining said ~~if the~~ mail message ~~does not comply~~ complies with said default mail policy, applying appropriate measures to said mail message.

4. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said default mail policy is triggered by more criteria than each of said sender-specific mail ~~policy~~ policies.

5. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of applying [[a]] said default mail policy to said mail message comprises rejecting said mail message.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising receiving the mail

message in a boundary agent, the mail message being intended for further transmission over an external computer network.

7. (Original) A computer program product, comprising code for performing the method as claimed in claim 1.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A local computer network, comprising:

a plurality of user computers; [[and]]

a mail server; and

having a at least one connection to a second computer network, such that outgoing mail messages can be are sent from the said user computers to destination computers connected to the said second computer network, and such that incoming mail messages can be are sent to the said user computers from transmitting computers connected to the said second computer network,

wherein the said mail server maintains a list of users of said user computers and associated respective sender-specific mail policies associated with each of said users, each of said sender-specific mail policies indicating at least one of how [[or]] and whether a mail message, received from one of said computer system users, is to should be further transmitted across the said second computer network;

wherein, [[when]] after said mail server receives an outgoing mail message, said outgoing mail message indicating a sender thereof, said mail server is configured to determine determines whether said outgoing mail message contains a digital signature and, if so, is configured to attempt attempts to verify [[a]] said digital signature in said outgoing mail message; and

after said digital signature is verified, said if the outgoing mail message does is determined to contain a verified digital signature, and if

after a user corresponding to the said verified digital signature corresponds is determined

to correspond to the said sender indicated in the said outgoing mail message, said mail server applies is configured to apply to said outgoing mail message at least one of said an associated sender-specific mail policy to said outgoing mail message policies associated with said user, and

after said outgoing mail message is not determined to contain any digital signature, or is not determined to contain said verified digital signature corresponding to said sender indicated in said mail message, said mail server is configured to apply a default mail policy to said outgoing mail message, wherein:

said default mail policy indicates at least one of how and whether a mail message, received from a sender omitted from said list of users, is to be further transmitted; and

said default mail policy is more restrictive than each of said sender-specific mail policies.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A local computer network as claimed in claim 10, wherein, when after said mail server determines whether the said outgoing mail message complies with at least one of said sender-specific mail policy policies:

after determining said if the outgoing mail message does comply with at least one of said sender-specific mail policy policies, said mail server is configured to allow allows transmission of said outgoing mail message; and

after not determining said if the outgoing mail message does not comply complies with at least one of said sender-specific mail policy policies, said mail server is configured to apply applies appropriate measures to said outgoing mail message.

13. (Currently amended) A local computer network as claimed in claim 10, wherein, when said mail server is configured to determine determines whether the said outgoing mail message complies with said default mail policy:

after determining said ~~if the~~ outgoing mail message does comply with said default <u>mail</u> policy, said mail server <u>is configured to allow</u> ~~allows~~ transmission of said outgoing mail message; and

after not determining said ~~if the~~ outgoing mail message ~~does not comply~~ <u>complies</u> with said default <u>mail</u> policy, said mail server <u>is configured to apply</u> ~~applies~~ appropriate measures to said outgoing mail message.

14. (Currently amended) A local computer network as claimed in claim 10, wherein said default mail policy is triggered by more criteria than <u>each of</u> said sender-specific mail ~~policy~~ <u>policies</u>.

15. (Previously Presented) A local computer network as claimed in claim 10, wherein said default mail policy is to reject said outgoing mail message.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, for use on a mail server in a local computer network, said local computer network further comprising:

a plurality of user computers; and

~~having a~~ <u>at least one</u> connection to a second computer network, such that outgoing mail messages ~~can be~~ <u>are</u> sent from ~~the~~ <u>said</u> user computers to destination computers connected to ~~the~~ <u>said</u> second computer network, and such that incoming mail messages ~~can be~~ <u>are</u> sent to ~~the~~ <u>said</u> user computers from transmitting computers connected to ~~the~~ <u>said</u> second computer network,

wherein said computer program product ~~causes the~~ <u>is configured to cause said</u> mail server to maintain a list of users of said user computers and ~~associated~~ <u>respective</u> sender-specific mail policies <u>associated with each of said users,</u> <u>each of</u> said sender-specific mail policies indicating <u>at least one of</u> how [[or]] <u>and</u> whether a ~~mail~~ message<u>, received from one of said computer system users, is to</u> ~~should~~ be further transmitted across ~~the~~ <u>said</u> second computer network;

wherein, when said mail server receives an outgoing mail message, said outgoing mail message indicating a sender thereof, said computer program product ~~causes the~~ <u>is configured to cause</u> said mail server to determine whether said outgoing <u>mail</u> message contains a digital

signature and, if so, attempt to verify [[a]] said digital signature in said outgoing mail message; and

after said digital signature is verified, said if the outgoing mail message does is determined to contain a verified digital signature, and if

after a user corresponding to the said verified digital signature corresponds is determined to correspond to the said sender indicated in the said outgoing mail message, said computer program product causes is configured to cause said mail server to apply to said outgoing mail message at least one of said an associated sender-specific mail policy to said outgoing mail message policies associated with said user, and

after said outgoing mail message is not determined to contain any digital signature, or is not determined to contain said verified digital signature corresponding to said sender indicated in said mail message, said computer program product is configured to cause said mail server to apply a default mail policy to said outgoing mail message, wherein:

said default mail policy indicates at least one of how and whether a mail message, received from a sender omitted from said list of users, is to be further transmitted; and

said default mail policy is more restrictive than each of said sender-specific mail policies.